



- **Employment increased to 230,500**
- **Unemployment rate fell slightly to 5.3%**
- **Participation rate remained static at 61.2%**

**Note:** All Labour Force estimates are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Labour Force Survey* and are *Trend estimates* unless otherwise stated.

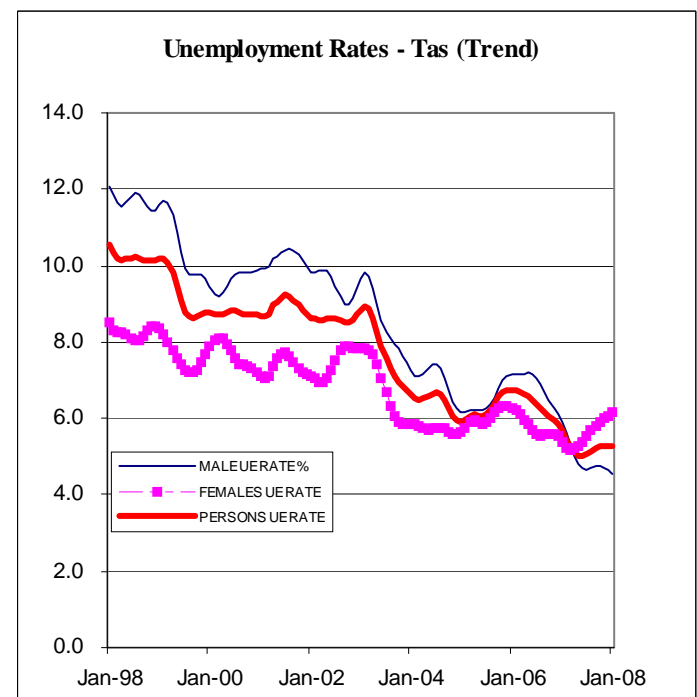
### Employment

Total employment in Tasmania rose slightly in January, and was 2.9% higher than in January last year. Full-time employment grew by 2.4% over the year, while part-time employment increased by 3.8% over the same period. Most of the increases appear to have been in male employment, which increased by 3.8% over the year. This increase was made up of a 4.3% increase in male full-time employment and a 1.5% increase in part-time employment. Total female employment increased by 1.7% over the year, with a 4.7% increase in part-time employment and a 1.1% decline in female full-time employment. Total employment has now increased for 14 consecutive months in Tasmania.

### Unemployment

The total number of unemployed Tasmanians fell slightly during the month of January to stand at 12,900, and was 4.5% lower than it was in January last year. The number of unemployed Tasmanian males fell by 21.6% over the year.

However there was an increase in female unemployment of 18% over the whole year. The total unemployment rate in January was 5.3% in comparison to 5.7% in the same month last year. The national unemployment rate is currently 4.3%. In other States, the rate was 4.6% in NSW, 4.6% in Vic, 3.6% in Qld, 4.8% in SA and 3.3% in WA.



### Labour Force & Participation Rates

There were an estimated 243,300 people in the Tasmania labour force in January, an increase of 2.5% for the same period last year. This increase was made up of 2.3% males and 2.6% females entering or re-entering the labour force. The participation rate in Tasmania was 61.2% in January, up from 60.2% last year. The current national participation rate remains at 65.2%.

CENSUS DATA - CHANGES TO INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Feature Article

2001—2006

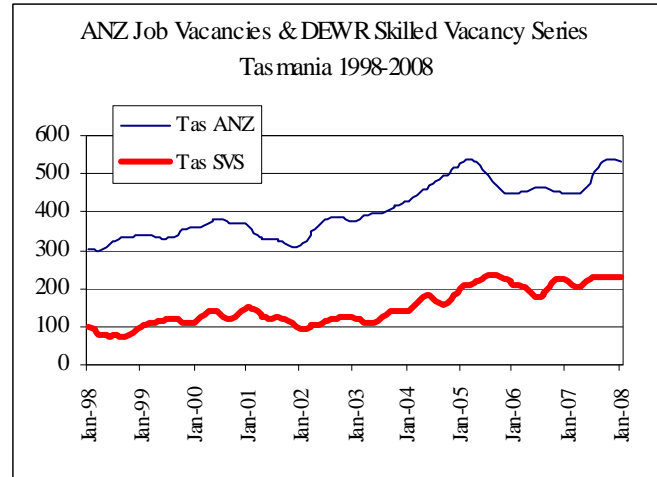
## Labour Force Estimates - Tasmania (Trend data)

	Jan-2007	Dec-2007	Jan-2008
	000's	000's	000's
Employment			
Male	121.4	125.9	126.0
Female	102.7	104.3	104.4
Full-time	154.3	157.8	158.1
Part-time	69.7	72.4	72.4
Persons	224.0	230.2	230.5
Unemployment			
Male	7.6	6.1	6.0
Female	5.8	6.7	6.9
Persons	13.5	12.8	12.9
Labour Force			
Male	129.0	132.0	132.0
Female	108.5	111.0	111.3
Persons	237.5	243.0	243.3
Unemployment Rate %			
Male	5.9	4.6	4.5
Female	5.4	6.1	6.2
Persons	5.7	5.3	5.3
Full-time Teenage*	23.7	30.6	23.9
Participation Rate %			
Male	66.9	67.9	67.9
Female	53.7	54.6	54.7
Persons	60.2	61.1	61.2
*unadjusted data			

### Job Vacancies

The **ANZ Bank Job Advertisement series** (trend) for Tasmania fell by 1.3% in January. The series is 17.7% higher than it was in January last year. Nationally, the series fell by 0.6% over the month, and was 0.5% higher than in January 2007.

**DEWR's Skilled Vacancy Survey Index** (trend) for Tasmania decreased by 0.7% in January but was 3.5% higher than in January last year. Nationally, the series increased by 1.1% over the month and was 0.5% lower than January last year.



### Other Indicators

**Building Approvals** in Tasmania for December were 2.1% higher than they were in December last year. Nationally, building approvals decreased by 0.6% over the month, but were 6.9% higher than in December 2007.

The **Consumer Price Index** for Hobart increased by 0.8% over the December quarter, and by 2.9% over the year. Both these figures are slightly lower than the national increase which was an average of 0.9% for the quarter and 3.0% over the year.

**Retail quarterly turnover** (chain volume measure) increased by 0.8% in Tasmania in the December quarter, and by 4.9% over the year. This compares to a national quarterly increase of 1.3% and an annual increase of 5.1%.

### Newstart & Youth Allowees

Benefit recipients (Newstart & Youth Allowances)				
	<12 months	>12 months	Total	% >12 months
Dec-2006	4,636	8,857	13,493	65.6%
Dec-2007	3,996	7,427	11,423	65.0%
Number difference	-640	-1,430	-2,070	
% difference	-13.8%	-16.1%	-15.3%	

**CENSUS DATA - CHANGES TO INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT**  
**2001-2006**

### Introduction

The following article looks at changes to employment in each industry in Tasmania, between the 2001 Census and the most recent 2006 Census. There have been changes to the way that the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) classifies industries since the last Census. The industry classification system used by the ABS is called the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification, or ANZSIC. The original ANZSIC was introduced in 1993, and was used for each Census up to 2001. In 2006 a new updated system of ANZSIC was introduced, and is the basis for much of the 2006 Census data. However, in order to facilitate comparisons over time, the ABS has also released 2006 Census data under the old industry classification system, and it is this data that will be used in this article.

### Employment by industry

The following table shows the size and the percentage change of each of Tasmania's industries between 2001 and 2006.

<i>Industry</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>% change</i>
Agric, Forestry & Fishing	12261	11,552	-5.8%
Mining	1549	1,626	5.0%
Manufacturing	21125	21,728	2.9%
Electricity, gas & water supply	1787	2,391	33.8%
Construction	9326	13,376	43.4%
Wholesale Trade	8402	8,170	-2.8%
Retail Trade	27354	30,413	11.2%
Accomm, Cafes & Restrnrs	9458	11,003	16.3%
Transport & Storage	7899	8,827	11.7%
Communication Services	2781	2,548	-8.4%
Finance & Insurance	4443	5,313	19.6%
Property & Business Svices	14113	15,465	9.6%
Govt Admin & Defence	9692	15,069	55.5%
Education	15040	16,628	10.6%
Health & Community Svices	21261	23,873	12.3%
Cultural & Recreational Svices	4310	4,422	2.6%
Personal & Other Services	6888	7,140	3.7%
Non-Class. Economic Units	1508	2,652	75.9%
Not Stated	3324	2,548	-23.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>182521</b>	<b>204,744</b>	<b>12.2%</b>

### Changes to Tasmanian industries

It can be seen from the above table that large percentage changes sometimes need to be treated with caution, in that a large percentage increase or decline in a very small industry can often involve relatively small numbers. For example the electricity, gas and water industry increased by 33.8 per cent over between Censuses, but total employment in the industry increased by 604 people in five years. In contrast the retail industry increased employment by 11.2 per cent, but employment increased by just over 3,000 people.

### **Increases in employment**

Tasmania's largest three employing industries, retail, health and community services, and manufacturing all increased in numbers between 2001 and 2006. It is likely that the numbers employed in the retail industry increased as a result of increased consumer spending during a period of strong economic growth in Tasmania. It is also possible that the introduction of seven day trading in December 2002 has increased employment in the industry, although it is also likely that at least some of this increase is in part-time and casual jobs for people employed solely on weekends.

Employment in the manufacturing industry has been in long term decline in Tasmania for at least the last 20 years so it is notable that there has been an increase over the last five years. The reasons for this are likely to be that companies supplying the construction industry have increased production to meet the increased activity in that sector, and also that there has been a shift from engineering manufacturing to food processing in Tasmania. This issue could be explored more fully when more detailed Census data becomes available. The increase in employment in the health sector is likely to be linked to significant increases in funding by governments over the last few years. Health spending now accounts for approximately one third of the State Government's total budget. The ageing of the population, and improved treatment techniques and methods are likely drivers of these increases, in that older people tend to use health services more often than younger people. In addition, the improved treatment techniques have meant that people with certain conditions and injuries would have died from these conditions years ago. It is now the case that treatments and technologies mean that people survive at greater rates than they used to.

### **Declines in employment**

It is an indication of how buoyant Tasmania's economy has been over the last five years or so, that only three of the industry groups above experienced declines in employment. The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is perhaps the most significant. It is likely that drought conditions that have been experienced in much of Tasmania in recent years have resulted in some losses in that industry. The forestry industry has undergone significant restructuring in recent times which is also likely to have reduced employment to some extent there. However, it is difficult to be more specific until more detailed data in each of the sectors mentioned can be examined.

The communication services industry experienced an 8.4 per cent decline, but this is a relatively small industry in Tasmania, dominated by one employer which is Telstra. The decline in numbers is likely to be as a result of ongoing restructuring of the industry and increases in efficiencies of telecommunications systems. The other industry that experienced declines in employment was wholesale trade. This industry has undergone restructuring over the last few years with the advent of "just in time" systems of stock control, which primarily means that goods are transported in as required, rather than being kept in large storage facilities. The declines in the wholesale trade industry were off-set by increases of 11.7 per cent in the transport and storage industries.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN JANUARY 2008**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jan Construction of a \$183m luxury eco-tourism development at Musselroe Bay on the north-east tip of Tasmania is expected to start by mid-2008. A hundred five star rooms and 320 assorted apartments, villas, and holiday homes are planned for the resort. The developers estimate that there will be 1,040 jobs created during the construction phase, with 160 jobs to be created once the resort is operational. (The Mercury)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan The Tasmanian Visitor Survey for September 2007 showed a one per cent increase in visitors to the state, compared to September 2006. The survey, run by Tourism Tasmania, also shows that there was an increase in the average length of stay in Tasmania on the previous year. (The Mercury)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Tasmanian salmon producer Tassal has acquired the King Island based company Superior Gold for \$26.5 million. Superior Gold was a subsidiary of National Foods Ltd, which marketed and distributed imported fish from Denmark. (The Mercury)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Up to 25,000 farmed salmon worth about \$1 million were lost in the week before Christmas. The escape of the salmon from a fish farm in the Tasman peninsula in Tasmania's south-east also proved problematic for the local scale fish industry as the salmon were being caught in the nets of commercial fishermen trying to catch banded morwong. State marine authorities advised that it would be illegal for anyone catching the fish to sell them. (ABC News)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jan Tasmanian company, KUTh Energy is increasing its geothermal energy exploration in Tasmania. The company which has the largest geothermal exploration lease in Australia, covering 14,000sqkm from south of Hobart to the mouth of the Tamar River in the north of the state, plans to spend \$3 million to \$4 million on exploration over the next three years, including its present drilling program in the Midlands. (Sunday Tasmanian) Another company, Geothermal Energy Tasmania, which is owned by Allegiance Mining, hopes to start a similar project in Western Tasmania later this year. (ABC News)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jan Budget carrier Tiger Airways commenced daily flights between Melbourne and Hobart. A subsidiary of international carrier Singapore Airlines, Tiger Airways announced a range of cut-price fares. (The Age)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN JANUARY 2008

16<sup>th</sup> Jan New tourism ventures in Tasmania this year:

The Central Highlands town of Bothwell will be the site of the Priory Country Lodge (formerly a heritage listed mansion), which will provide luxury accommodation at the high end of the market. Also in Bothwell, the historic property Nant will house a whisky distillery in the restored water-driven flour mill, which dates from 1823.

Bruny Island Charters have developed a second eco-cruise between Port Arthur and Eaglehawk Neck on the State's South East Peninsula.

Freycinet Peninsula on Tasmania's east coast is the scene of marketing operation, Pure Tasmania's, new signature experience. The Wineglass to Wine Glass experience involves a guided walk over the Hazards to the famous bay, an open-air lunch and a trip by water taxi back to Freycinet Lodge.

In the north of the State, Flora de Kantzow, creator of the Henry Jones Art Hotel in Hobart and Launceston's Hatherley House, is opening her third accommodation venture in the colonial mansion, Quamby, with its own golf course. (The Australian)

31<sup>st</sup> Jan Economic consulting firm Access Economics says that the level of investment in Tasmania rose to just over \$8 billion, up from \$7.85 billion in the September quarter. Almost half the investment is in agriculture, mining and metals at \$3.65 billion. (The Mercury)

31<sup>st</sup> Jan Zeehan Zinc has started processing minerals from the Comstock mine west of Zeehan in Tasmania's west. The Tasmanian company says it has started production of zinc pre-concentrate for customers in Tasmania and China. Zeehan Zinc executive director and CEO Ralph Rossouw said that the company's investment in the state, including money so far invested at Comstock, would total \$100 million by the end of 2009. (The Mercury)